

# FLI

4. Removal from place to place by means of wings.  
Ere the bat hath flown  
His cloyster'd flight. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*  
The fowls shall take their flight away together. 2 *Ejd. v. 6.*  
Fowls, by Winter forc'd, forsake the floods,  
And wing their hasty flight to happier lands. *Dryden's En.*
5. A flock of birds flying together.  
Flights of angels wing thee to thy rest. *Shakespeare's Hamlet.*  
They take great pride in the feathers of birds; and this  
they took from their ancestors of the mountains, who were  
invited unto it by the infinite flights of birds that came up to  
the high grounds. *Bacon's New Atlantis.*  
I call at will, doubt not,  
Comm and a table in this wilderness;  
And call swift flights of angels ministrant,  
Array'd in glory, on my cup attend. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
6. The birds produced in the same season: as, the harvest flight of pigeons.  
A volley; as much shot as is discharged at once.  
At the first flight of arrows flew,  
Full three-score Scots they flew. *Cherry Chase.*  
Above an hundred arrows discharged on my left hand,  
pricked me like to many needles; and besides they shot another  
flight into the air, as we do bombs. *Gulliver's Travels.*
8. The space past by flying.  
Heat of imagination; fall of the soul.  
Old Pindar's flights by him are reacht,  
When on that gale his wings are stretcht. *Denham.*  
He shew'd all the stretch of fancy at once; and if he has  
fail'd in some of his flights, it was but because he attempted  
every thing. *Pope's Preface to the Iliad.*  
Strange graces still, and stranger flights the had;  
Was just not ugly, and was just not mad. *Pope, Epistle ii.*  
Trust me, dear! good humour can prevail,  
When airs and flights, and screams and scolding fail. *Pope.*
10. Excursion on the wing.  
If there were any certain height where the flights of ambi-  
tion end, one might imagine that the interest of France were  
but to conserve its present greatness. *Temple.*  
It is not only the utmost pitch of impiety, but the highest  
flight of folly, to deride these things. *Tillotson, Sermon 2.*
11. The power of flying.  
In my school-days, when I had lost one shaft,  
I shot his fellow of the self-same flight  
The self-same way. *Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.*
- FLIGHTY. *adj.* [from flight.]  
1. Fleeting; swift.  
Time, thou anticipat'st my dread exploits:  
The flighty purpose never is o'ertook,  
Unless the deed go with it. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
2. Wild; full of imagination.  
FLIMSY. *adj.* [Of this word I know not any original, and  
suspect it to have crept into our language from the cant of  
manufacturers.]
1. Weak; feeble; without strength of texture.  
2. Mean; spiritless; without force.  
Proud of a vast extent of flimsy lines. *Pope, Epistle ii.*
- TO FLINCH. *v. n.* [corrupted from fling. *Skinner.*]
1. To shrink from any suffering or undertaking; to withdraw  
from any pain or danger.  
Every martyr could keep one eye steadily fixed upon im-  
mortality, and look death and danger out of countenance  
with the other; nor did they flinch from duty, for fear of  
martyrdom. *South's Sermons.*  
A child, by a constant course of kindness, may be accus-  
tomed to bear very rough usage without flinching or com-  
plaining. *Locke.*  
Oh ingratitude, that John Bull, whom I have honoured  
with my friendship, should flinch at last, and pretend that he  
can disburse no more money. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*
2. In *Shakespeare* it signifies to fail.  
If I break time, or flinch in property  
Of what I spoke, unpitied let me die. *Shakespeare.*
- FLINCHER. *n. f.* [from the verb.] He who shrinks or fails in  
any matter.
- TO FLING. *preter. flung; part. flung or flung. v. a.* [from  
*fligo*, Latin, *Skinner.* according to others from *flying*; so to  
fling is to *let flying*.]  
1. To cast from the hand; to throw.  
The matrons flung their gloves,  
Ladies and maids their scarfs and handkerchiefs  
Upon him. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*  
'Tis fate that flings the dice; and as the flings,  
Of kings makes peasants, and of peasants kings. *Dryden.*  
How much unlike that Hector who return'd  
Clad in Achilles' spoils; when he, among  
A thousand ships, like Jove, his lightning flung. *Denham.*
2. To dart; to cast with violence.  
Every beam new transient colours flings,  
Colours that change whenever they wave their wings. *Pope.*
4. To drive by violence.

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- A heap of rocks, falling, would expel the waters out of  
their places with such a violence as to fling them among the  
highest clouds. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*
5. To move forcibly.  
The knight feeling his habitation reduced to so small com-  
pact, ordered all the apartments to be flung open. *Addison's Spect.*
  6. To eject; to dismiss.  
Cromwell, I charge thee fling away ambition;  
By that sin fell the angels. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
  7. To cast reproach.  
I know thy gen'rous temper:  
Fling but the appearance of dishonour on it;  
It strait takes fire. *Addison's Cat.*
  8. To force into another condition; properly into a worse.  
Squalid fortune, into baseness flung,  
Doth scorn the pride of wonted ornaments. *Spenser.*
  9. To FLING down. To demolish; to ruin.  
These are so far from raising mountains, that they over-  
turn and fling down some of those which were before stand-  
ing. *Woodward's Natural History.*
  10. To FLING off. To baffle in the chase; to defeat of a prey.  
These men are too well acquainted with the chase to be  
flung off by any false steps or doubles. *Addison's Spectator.*
  - TO FLING. *v. n.*  
1. To flounce; to wince; to fly into violent and irregular  
motions.  
The angry beast  
Began to kick, and fling, and wince,  
As if he had been beside his sense. *Hudibras, p. i. cant. 2.*  
Their consciences are galled by it, and this makes them  
wince and fling as if they had some mettle. *Tillotson's Sermon.*
  2. To FLING out. To grow unruly or outrageous: from the  
act of any angry horse that throws out his legs.  
Duncan's horses,  
Turn'd wild in nature, broke their stalls, flung out,  
Contending 'gainst obedience. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
  - FLING. *n. f.* [from the verb.]  
1. A throw; a cast.  
2. A gibe; a sneer; a contemptuous remark.  
No little scribbler is of wit so bare,  
But has his fling at the poor wedded pair. *Addison.*  
I, who love to have a fling  
Both at senate-house and king,  
Thought no method more commodious  
Than to throw their vices odious. *Swift.*
  - FLINGER. *n. f.* [from the verb.]  
1. He who throws.  
2. He who jeers.
  - FLINT. *n. f.* [plur. Saxon.]  
1. A semi-pellucid stone, composed of crystal debased, of a  
blackish grey, of one similar and equal substance, free from  
veins, and naturally invetted with a whitish crust. It is some-  
times smooth and equal, more frequently rough: its size is  
various. It is well known to strike fire with steel. It is use-  
ful in glassmaking. *Hill on Pyrites.*  
Searching the window for a flint, I found  
This paper. *Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.*  
Love melts the rigour which the rocks have bred;  
A flint will break upon a featherbed. *Clarendon.*  
There is the same force and the same refreshing virtue in a  
fire kindled by a spark from a flint, as if it were kindled by a  
beam from the sun. *South's Sermons.*  
Take this, and lay your flint edg'd weapon by. *Dryden.*  
I'll fetch quick fuel from the neighb'ring wood,  
And strike the sparkling flint, and dress the food. *Prior.*
  2. Anything eminently or proverbially hard.  
Your tears, a heart of flint  
Might tender make. *Spenser.*  
Throw my heart  
Against the flint and hardness of my fault. *Sh. Ant. and Cleop.*
  - FLINTY. *adj.* [from flint.]  
1. Made of flint; strong.  
Tyrant custom  
Hath made the flinty and steel couch of war  
My thrice-driven bed of down. *Shakespeare's Othello.*  
A pointed flinty rock, all bare and black,  
Grew gibbous from behind the mountain's back. *Dryden.*
  2. Full of stones.  
The gathering up of flints in flinty ground, and laying them  
on heaps, is no good husbandry. *Bacon's Natural History.*
  3. Hard of heart; cruel; savage; inexorable.  
I did him a desired office,  
Dear almost as his life; which gratitude,  
Through flinty Tartar's bosom, would peep forth,  
And answer thanks. *Shakespeare's All's well that ends well.*
  - FLIPP. *n. f.* [A cant word.] A liquor much used in ships, made  
by mixing beer with spirits and sugar.
  - FLIPPANT. *adj.* [A word of no great authority, probably de-  
rived from *flip-flap*.]

1. Nimble;

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1. Nimble; moveable. It is used only of the act of speech.  
An excellent anatomist promised to dissect a woman's tongue,  
and examine whether there may not be in it certain juices,  
which render it so wonderfully voluble or flippant. *Addison.*
2. Pert; talkative.  
Away with flippant epilogues. *Thomson.*
- FLIPPANTLY. *adv.* [from the adjective.] In a flowing prating  
way.  
To FLIRT. *v. a.* [Skinner thinks it formed from the sound.]  
1. To throw any thing with a quick clatlick motion.  
Dick the scavenger  
Flirts from his cart the mud in Walpole's face. *Swift.*
2. To move with quickness.  
Permit some happier man  
To kiss your hand, or flirt your fan. *Dorset.*
- TO FLIRT. *v. n.*  
1. To jest; to gibe at one.  
2. To run about perpetually; to be unsteady and fluttering.  
FLIRT. *n. f.* [from the verb.]  
1. A quick clatlick motion.  
In unflirting the fan are several little flirts and vibrations,  
as also gradual and deliberate openings. *Addison's Spectator.*  
Before you pass th' imaginary flights  
While the spread fan o'erlurds your closing eyes,  
Then give one flirt, and all the vision flies. *Pope.*
2. A sudden trick.  
Have licence to play,  
At the hedge a flirt,  
For a sheet or a flirt. *Ben. Johnson's Gypsies.*
3. A pert young hussy.  
Scurvy knave, I am none of his flirt gills; I am none of  
his skains mates. *Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.*  
Several young flirts about town had a design to cast us out  
of the fashionable world. *Addison's Guardian, N<sup>o</sup>. 109.*
- FLIRTATION. *n. f.* [from flirt.] A quick sprightly mo-  
tion. A cant word among women.  
A muslin flounce, made very full, would give a very agree-  
able flirtation air. *Pope.*
- TO FLIRT. *v. n.* [from *To flirt*; or from *fitter*, Danish, to re-  
move.]  
1. To fly away.  
Likelt it seemeth, in my simple wit,  
Unto the fair sunshine in Summer's day,  
That when a dreadful storm away is flit,  
Through the broad world doth spread his goodly ray. *Spenser.*  
His grudging ghost did strive  
With the frail flesh; at last it flitted is,  
Whither the souls do die of men that live amiss. *Fairy Qu.*
2. To remove; to migrate. In Scotland it is still used for re-  
moving from one place to another at quarter-day, or the usual  
term.  
So hardly he the flitted life does win,  
Unto her native prison to return. *Fairy Queen, cant. 7.*  
It became a received opinion, that the souls of men, de-  
parting this life, did flit out one body into some other. *Hooker.*
3. To flutter; to rove on the wing.  
He made a glancing shot, and mis'd the dove;  
Yet mis'd so narrow, that he cut the cord  
Which fasten'd, by the foot, the flitting bird. *Dryden's En.*  
Fear the just gods, and think of Scylla's fate!  
Chang'd to a bird, and sent to flit in air. *Pope.*
4. To be flux or unfatle.  
Himself up high he lifted from the ground,  
And with strong flight did forcibly divide  
The yielding air, which nigh too feeble found  
Her flitting parts, and element unfound. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*  
He stoop'd at once the passage of his wind,  
And the free soul to flitting air resign'd. *Dryden's En.*
- FLIRT. *adj.* [from flit.] Swift; nimble; quick.  
And in his hand two darts exceeding flit,  
In peison and in blood, of malice and delight. *Fairy Qu.*
- FLIRCH. *n. f.* [plur. Saxon; *flyche*, Danish; *flèche*, *flèche*,  
French. *Skinner.*] The side of a hog salted and cured.  
But heretofore 'twas thought a sumptuous feast,  
On birthdays, festivals, or days of state,  
A salt dry flitch of bacon to prepare;  
If they had fresh meat, 'twas delicious fare. *Dryden's Juv.*  
While he from out the chimney took  
A flitch of bacon off the hook,  
Cut out large slices to be fry'd.  
He sometimes accompanies the present with a flitch  
of bacon.
- FLITTERMOUSE. *n. f.* The bat.
- FLITTING. *n. f.* [plur. Saxon; scandal.] An offence; a  
fault.  
Thou tellest my flittings, put my tears into thy bottle.  
by mixing beer with spirits and sugar. *Psalms lvi.*
- FLIX. *n. f.* [corrupted from *flux*.] Down; fur; soft hair.  
With his loll'd tongue he faintly licks his prey;  
His warm breath blows her flix up as the lies:  
She trembling creeps upon the ground away,

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- And looks back to him with beseeching eyes. *Dryden.*
- FLIXWOOD. *n. f.* See HEDGE-MUSTARD.
- TO FLOAT. *v. n.* [from *flut*, French.]  
1. To swim on the surface of the water.  
When the sea was calm, all boats alike  
Shew'd mastership in floating. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*  
The ark no more now floats, but seems on ground,  
Fast on the top of some high mountain fix'd. *Mit. P. L.*  
That men, being drowned and sunk, do float the ninth  
day, when their gall breaketh, are popular affirmations. *Brown.*  
Three blurring nights, born by the southern blast,  
I floated; and discover'd land at last. *Dryden's En. b. vi.*  
His rosy wreath was dropt not long before,  
Born by the tide of wine, and floating on the floor. *Dryden.*  
On frothy billows thousands float the stream,  
In cumbrous mail, with love of farther shore. *Phillips.*  
Carp are very apt to float away with fresh water. *Mortimer.*- 2. To move without labour in a fluid.  
What divine monsters, O ye gods, were these  
That float in air, and fly upon the seas! *Dryd. Ind. Emp.*  
Swift they descend, with wing to wing conjoin'd,  
Stretch their broad plumes, and float upon the wind. *Pope.*
- 3. To pass with a light irregular court.  
Floating visions make not deep impressions enough to leave  
in the mind clear, distinct, lasting ideas. *Locke.*
- TO FLOAT. *v. a.* To cover with water.  
Proud Pactolus floats the fruitful lands,  
And leaves a rich manure of golden sands. *Dryden's En.*  
Venice looks, at a distance, like a great town half floated  
by a deluge. *Addison's Remarks on Italy.*  
Now flocks with snow's the misty mountain-ground,  
And floated fields lie undistinguish'd round. *Pope's Statius.*  
The vast parterres a thousand hands shall make:  
Lo! Cobham comes, and floats them with a lake. *Pope.*
- FLAOT. *n. f.* [from the verb.]  
1. The act of floating; the flux; the contrary to the ebb. A  
sense now out of use.  
Our trust in the Almighty is, that with us contentions are  
now at their highest float. *Hooker, Preface.*  
Of this kind is some disposition of bodies to rotation, par-  
ticularly from East to West; of which kind we conceive the  
main float and reflux of the sea is, which is by content of the  
universe, as part of the diurnal motion. *Bacon's Nat. History.*
- 2. Any body so contrived or formed as to swim upon the water.  
They took it for a ship, and, as it came nearer, for a boat;  
but it proved a float of weeds and rushes. *L'Estrange's Fables.*  
A passage for the weary people make;  
With other floats the standing water throw,  
Of mally itones make bridges, if it flow. *Dryden's Virgil.*
- 3. The cork or quill by which the angler discovers the bite of  
a fish.  
You will find this to be a very choice bait, sometimes cast-  
ing a little of it into the place where your float swims. *Walt. n.*
- 4. A cant word for a level.  
Banks are measured by the float or floor, which is eighteen  
foot square, and one deep. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
- FLAOTY. *adj.* Buoyant and swimming a-top.  
The hindrance to stay well is the extreme length of a ship,  
especially if she be floaty, and want sharpness of way for-  
wards. *Raleigh's Essays.*
- FLOCK. *n. f.* [flocce, Saxon.]  
1. A company; usually a company of birds or beasts.  
She that hath a heart of that fine frame,  
To pay this debt of love but to a brother,  
How will the love when the rich golden shaft  
Hath kill'd the flock of all affections else  
That live in her. *Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.*
- 2. A company of sheep, distinguished from herds, which are of  
oxen.  
The cattle in the fields, and meadows green,  
Those rare and solitary; these in flocks  
Pasturing at once, and in broad herds upspring. *Milton.*  
France has a sheep by her, not only as a sacrifice, but to  
shew that the riches of the country consisted chiefly in flocks  
and pasturage. *Addison on ancient Medals.*
- 3. A body of men.  
The heathen that had fled out of Judea came to Nicanor by  
flocks. *2 Mac. xiv. 14.*
- 4. [From *flocus*.] A lock of wool.  
A house well furnish'd shall be thine to keep;  
And for a flock bed, I can cheer my sheep. *Dryden.*
- TO FLOCK. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To gather in crowds or  
large numbers.  
Many young gentlemen flock to him every day, and fleet  
the time carelessly. *Shakespeare's As you like it.*  
Upon the return of the ambassadors, the poor of all sorts  
flocked together to the great master's house. *Knolles's History.*  
Others ran flocking out of their houses to the general sup-  
plication. *2 Mac. iii. 18.*  
Stilpo, when the people flocked about him, and that one  
said, The people come wondering about you, as if it were to  
see